

Appl. No. : 09/738,372
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1-21, Cancelled
22. (Original) A method of generating cw mode-locked laser pulses, comprising:
generating Q-switched mode-locked laser pulses; and
suppressing Q-switching.
23. (Original) A method as defined in Claim 22, wherein said suppressing step
comprises absorbing Q-switched laser pulses.
24. (Original) A method as defined in Claim 23, wherein said absorbing step absorbs a
fraction of the Q-switched pulses.
25. (Original) A method as defined in Claim 23, wherein said absorbing step comprises
two photon absorption.
26. (Original) A method as defined in Claim 22, wherein said generating step
comprises:
pumping a gain medium located within a laser cavity; and
absorbing optical radiation from said gain medium in a Fabry-Perot structure.
27. (Previously Amended) A method as defined in Claim 26, wherein said generating
step additionally comprises resonating said optical radiation within said Fabry-Perot structure.
28. (Original) A method of generating cw mode-locked laser energy, comprising:
evolving cw modelocking from Q-switched modelocking.
- 29-32, Cancelled
33. (Original) A method of generating cw mode-locked laser pulses, comprising:
generating Q-switched mode-locked laser pulses; and
preferentially suppressing Q-switching without suppressing cw mode-locked laser
pulses.
34. (Previously Amended) A method of generating cw mode-locked laser energy,
comprising:
generating Q-switched mode-locked pulses.
- 35-56, Cancelled
57. (Previously presented) A method of generating cw mode-locked laser pulses,
comprising:

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generating Q-switched mode-locked laser pulses; and
suppressing Q-switching to yield cw mode-locked pulses.

58. (Previously presented) A method as defined in Claim 57, wherein said suppressing step comprises absorbing Q-switched laser pulses.

59. (Previously presented) A method as defined in Claim 58, wherein said absorbing step absorbs a fraction of the Q-switched pulses.

60. (Previously presented) A method as defined in Claim 58, wherein said absorbing step comprises two photon absorption.

61. (Previously presented) A method as defined in Claim 57, wherein said generating step comprises:

pumping a gain medium located within a laser cavity; and
absorbing optical radiation from said gain medium in a Fabry-Perot structure.

62. (Previously presented) A method as defined in Claim 61, wherein said generating step additionally comprises resonating said optical radiation within said Fabry-Perot structure.

63. (Previously presented) A method of generating cw mode-locked laser pulses, comprising:

generating Q-switched mode-locked laser pulses; and
preferentially suppressing Q-switching without suppressing cw mode-locked laser pulses to yield cw mode-locked laser pulses.

64. (Previously presented) A method of generating cw mode-locked laser energy, comprising:

generating Q-switched mode-locked pulses to yield cw mode-locked laser pulses.